

West Nile Virus

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Agenda

- Background
- What DOD and the Army are doing
- What Installations may want to consider

Background

- Mosquito-borne virus
- First documented in Western Hemisphere in summer 1999
- As of 2 Aug 2002, in 2002, 71 cases with 4 deaths
- 1999-2001, 149 cases with 18 deaths
- No cases in Army personnel in the U.S.

Background

- People become infected through bite of infected mosquito
- Mosquitoes become infected through feeding on infected birds.

Background

- In areas where WNV has been documented-
 - Less than 1% of mosquitoes are infected
 - Less than 1% of individuals who are actually bitten by an infected mosquito develop symptoms.
- If people develop symptoms, most will experience self-limited flu-like symptoms
- Elderly most susceptible to complications such as encephalitis. (All deaths in 2002 were elderly)

Background

- No specific treatment, medication, or cure
- No vaccine
- Complications treated with intensive therapy in hospital ICU.
- Prevention-
 - Good mosquito control
 - Personal Protective Measures
- WNV Fact Sheet can be found on the website stated in the Information Paper

What DOD and the Army are doing

- 2001 and 2002 policy memos from ASD(HA) to service SG and M&RA on recommendations to develop WNV surveillance and prevention plans.
- 2001 and 2002 policy memos from OTSG to RMC directing each to submit its WNV plans.

What DOD and the Army are doing

- DOD designated CHPPM-N to provide mosquito testing for DOD surveillance. (Surveillance standards posted on website in stated in Information Paper)
- Installations directed to work with veterinary personnel to have dead birds and suspected horse specimens analyzed.

What DOD and the Army are doing

- CHPPM-N emails mosquito surveillance and bird analysis results every Monday to DOD agencies. (and to State Hlth. Dept the following day.)
- Surveillance results posted to website stated in Information Paper.
- If positive analysis, CHPPM-N immediately phones submitting DOD activity. (and within 24 hours to the State Hlth. Dept.)

What DOD and the Army are doing

- Installations receive reports from respective State Hlth Dept
- CHPPM-N receives CDC reports
- Based on results of mosquito or bird surveillance, CHPPM Subordinate Commands will assist installations with mosquito control measures.
- Suggested installation decision support plan posted to website stated in Information Paper.

What DOD and the Army are doing

- As of 3 Aug 2002, WNV infected mosquitoes-
 - Ft Myer, Ft McNair, Ft McPherson
 - Pentagon, Andrews AFB
- These Installations have intensified mosquito abatement procedures and recommended “DEET” skin application
- No infected humans, horses, or birds on DOD Installations.

What Installations may want to consider

- Following mosquito surveillance procedures as per website stated in Information Paper.
- Continue to work closely with surrounding public health authorities in mosquito abatement procedures and surveillance.
- Having MP and DPW activities work with PM and Vet activities to monitor and submit dead birds for WNV analysis

What Installations may want to consider

- Following the suggested decision support plan as per the website stated in the Information Paper
- Ensuring all buildings on post take steps to prevent mosquito breeding as per the website stated in the Information Paper
- Encouraging all PP to do the same around their homes.

What Installations may want to consider

- Contacting the Medical Treatment Facility Commander so medical personnel have a high index of suspicion for WNV illness when evaluating patients.
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